

Corsham Youth Council

Town Hall, High Street, Corsham
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Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting held at Corsham Town Hall on Monday 23 January 2023

Present:

Youth Councillors: Adele, Annabelle F, Annabelle S, Celeste, Charlotte, Connie, Emma, Erika, Grace, Harry, Henry, Isla, Jayden (*Chair*), Jonah, Katherine, Max, Mia, Olive, Rupert

Town Councillors: Steve Abbott (SA), Chairman, Corsham Town Council
Alan Brown (AB)
Neville Farmer (NF)

Town Council Staff: Sharon Thomas (Head of Community Services) (ST)

1. Apologies

There were none.

2. Minutes of Meeting Held on 21 November 2023 and Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Plastic Free Community Campaign

SA explained that, in 2023, the Town Council will be working to achieve Plastic Free Community status for Corsham, in a campaign started by the organisation Surfers Against Sewage because 12 million tonnes of plastic end up in the ocean, in some form, every year. For the town to achieve this, we need our local schools to become plastic free too. This means working to eliminate avoidable single-use plastics such as plastic water bottles, milk cartons, food packaging, takeaway cartons and plastic cutlery. The campaign does not mean there is no plastic at all, it means that our community is starting work to reduce plastic pollution.

With the help of the Youth Councillors, the Town Council would like to encourage our schools to sign up to become Plastic Free Schools. There are resources online for teachers to use.

Sharon would send information and a template letter that the Youth Councillors could use to ask their teachers/head teacher to sign up with the Minutes of the meeting. Beth Searle, the Town Council's Environmental Project Officer (who was due to be at the meeting but had been unable to attend) would also be in touch with the schools about the campaign and would be able to help them achieve Plastic Free Schools status.

4. Corsham Events 2023

The Youth Council was asked for their ideas to encourage young people to come along/get involved in the Town Council's events this year. Suggestions included:

Eco Fair – Beeswax wrap making

Taste of Corsham – Sushi-making stall (Green Ginger sells sushi-making kits so this may be something they could do); Junior Bake Off; cheese/fudge tastings; 'Taste of the World' – have different stalls selling food from different countries, and a 'spicy food' competition, seeing who can eat the hottest/spiciest food.

Street Fair – Gaming van and a time-trial obstacle course (like the one the Rugby Club ran at the Summer Fete)

General Ideas – Trail around the stalls, finding things that they sell, along the lines of a treasure hunt; sell cards with peacocks on; get Corsham Windband to play; have a face-painting station, and Pound Ballet to perform.

Sharon would pass all the suggestions on to her colleagues for them to consider when planning this year's events.

5. **Coronation of King Charles III**

Town Councillors had started putting ideas together for activities to mark the Coronation of King Charles III in May. The suggestions so far included 'Paint a Portrait of King Charles', 'Design a Coronation Flag' and 'A Poem for Corsham' competitions and a crown trail around the shops for younger children. The Town Council would also be an information hub for anyone wanting to organise a street party.

Ideas from Youth Councillors to mark the occasion were to have a military parade, as on Remembrance Sunday, with the youth groups included (Sea Scouts, Guides, etc), and/or a fancy dress parade with a Kings and Queens theme, and a screening of the Coronation at Springfield Rec. As the additional bank holiday, on 8 May, in honour of the Coronation, has been designated 'The Big Help Out', to encourage volunteering, it was suggested that there could be a community litter pick across Corsham.

Sharon would look at the ideas in more detail and, if it was possible to factor them into the plans, she and her colleagues would do so.

6. **Ideas and Suggestions for CYC Projects/Campaigns in 2023**

Recycling Schemes – Following on from the discussion at November's meeting, the idea of some kind of in-school pen recycling project was talked about, particularly as pens can be recycled at the Community Recycling Hub at Springfield Campus.

Sharon would try and find out what recycling schemes were available to take the idea further.

FIFA Women's World Cup – The Lionesses, England's women's football team, would be playing in the World Cup, taking place in Australia and New Zealand from 20 July to 20 August, and CYC could mark the occasion in some way. As the town centre features two lion sculptures, it was suggested that the lions could be decorated in some way to show support and the Youth Councillors could make the decorations. This could be discussed nearer the time.

7. **Community Garden Visit**

Sharon explained that she had arranged for the next CYC meeting to be a visit to the Community Garden, at the back of the Pound Arts Centre, rather than the normal meeting at the Town Hall. Adam Walton, from Corsham Climate Action, would be on hand to show everyone the garden and there may be the opportunity to do some gardening jobs. There would also be the opportunity to meet some of the team from The Pound and talk to them about what they offer young people when it comes to activities, films and shows. Sharon would send a reminder about the visit to everyone nearer the time.

8. **Any Other Business**

The Youth Councillors raised a number of local issues, which Sharon would report back to the staff at the Town Hall and Wiltshire Council, depending on who was responsible. The issues included pot holes

on Park Lane; leaves and mud along the cycle paths by MOD Corsham, making them unsafe to use; people throwing litter in the ditch along the large play area at Katherine Park, plus holes in the ground there; dangerous parking on Pool Green; potholes at Neston Rec; speeding traffic on West Park Road and a street light out on Priory Street, outside Heywood Prep.

9. Dates of Next Meetings

Monday 20 March 2023, Community Garden Visit, 3.15pm at the Pound Arts Centre, Pound Pill;
Monday 22 May, 3.15pm at the Town Hall; Monday 10 July, 3.15pm at the Town Hall.

ST 24.1.23